

**In the Claims:**

Please amend claims 18 – 29 and 31, as indicated below.

1.-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A computer system, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory comprises program instructions configured to implement:

a first devices, and

a plurality of device drivers, each operable to:

monitor an operational status of the first one of a plurality of devices, and

consequent upon a change in the operational status of the first monitored device, to generate fault report data indicating whether the change of operational status of the first device was caused internally within the first monitored device or externally by another device connected to the first monitored device; and

a fault response process operable to analyze generated fault report data generated by one or more of the plurality of device drivers to determine a faulty one of the plurality of devices.

19. (Currently amended) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the fault report data includes an indication of an operational status of the first monitored device.

20. (Currently amended) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein, if the fault report data indicates that the change of operational status of the first monitored device was caused externally, the device driver is operable to generate fault direction information indicative of a connection from which the external fault is perceived.

21. (Currently amended) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the operational status of the first monitored device is one of: up, indicating no fault, degraded, indicating that the first monitored device is still operational but with impaired performance, or down, indicating that the first monitored device is not operational.

22. (Currently amended) A computer system as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the operational status of the first monitored device is determined from at least one of: a time to respond to a command, an amount of data communicated via an I/O bus, an amount of data processed by the first monitored device, whether information is being correctly processed, or from an error interrupt signal generated by the first monitored device.

23. (Currently amended) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein each of the plurality of the device drivers is operable to generate environment data representative of at least one parameter value of at least one sensor associated with a device or group of devices, or a Field Replaceable Unit (FRU) containing one or more devices.

24. (Currently amended) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein each of the plurality of device drivers generates the operational status information from at least one of: a number of memory accesses performed, a time taken to respond to a command, and an amount of data processed.

25. (Currently amended) A method, ~~of controlling a first device of a computer system, the method comprising:~~

monitoring an operational status of each of a plurality of the first devices;,

for each monitored device:

consequent upon a change in the operational status of the first monitored device, generating fault report data indicating whether the change of operational status of the first monitored device was caused internally within the first monitored device or externally by another device connected to the first monitored device; and

analyzing generated fault report data for one or more of the monitored devices to determine a faulty one of the plurality of devices.

26. (Currently amended) A method ~~of controlling a device~~ as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the fault report data includes an indication of an operational status of the first monitored device.

27. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 25, further comprising:

if the fault report data indicates that the change of operational status of the first monitored device was caused externally, generating fault direction information indicative of a connection from which the external fault is perceived.

28. (Currently amended) A method ~~of controlling a device~~ as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the operational status of the first monitored device is one of: up, indicating no fault, degraded, indicating that the first monitored device is still operational but with

impaired performance, or down, indicating that the ~~first monitored~~ device is not operational.

29. (Currently amended) A method of ~~controlling~~ a device as claimed in Claim 28, further comprising:

determining the operational status of the ~~first monitored~~ device from at least one of: a time to respond to a command, an amount of data communicated via an I/O bus, an amount of data processed by the ~~first monitored~~ device, whether information is being correctly processed or from error interrupt signal generated by a device.

30. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 25, further comprising:

generating environment data representative of at least one parameter value of at least one sensor associated with a device or group of devices, or a Field Replaceable Unit (FRU) containing one or more devices.

31. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising a computer program, the computer program including computer-executable instructions, which, when loaded onto a computer system comprising a processor[[],] ~~and a memory and a first device~~, provide a plurality of device drivers, each operable to:

monitor an operational status of ~~the first one of a plurality of devices~~, and

consequent upon a change in the operational status of the ~~first monitored~~ device, generate fault report data indicating whether the change of operational status of the ~~first monitored~~ device was caused internally within the ~~first monitored~~ device or externally by another device connected to the ~~first monitored~~ device; and

wherein the computer-executable instructions further provide a fault response process operable to analyze generated fault report data generated by one or more of the device drivers to determine a faulty one of the plurality of devices.